

**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT**

Please substitute the following paragraph for the abstract now appearing in the currently filed specification:

Integrated optical waveguides and methods for the production thereof which have a patterned upper cladding with a defined opening to allow at least one side or at least one end of a light transmissive element to be air clad. The at least one side or at least one end is, for preference, a lens structure unitary with the waveguide, or a bend.